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JRC

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P. O. Box 2604

Washington, D. C. 20013

MHQ-5062  
7 June 1985

The Honorable Richard W. Boehm  
American Ambassador  
Nicosia, Cyprus

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

During my visit earlier this year I promised to send you a background paper on FBIS plans for satellite monitoring and for our new communications system, "INTERNET," to link FBIS Nicosia with other major bureaus and Headquarters.

I have not done so because I think it is still a little premature, for the following reasons. The big challenge facing FBIS in terms of satellite monitoring is to determine how to monitor the television broadcasts of West European countries. It is our understanding that 10 European countries will move to the use of satellites for direct broadcasts and/or relay of broadcasts; these may be difficult for us to monitor because of the varying "footprints." We do not know at this point what may be monitored at our facility in southern England, so that it may be necessary for us to establish a satellite monitoring dish on the continent, in West Europe, in order to do this. We have therefore contracted with Ford Aerospace to do a study to determine what technical facilities are necessary to accomplish what we want in regard to these West European transmissions. What we do in West Europe will have an impact on what we need to do in Cyprus. It may be, if we do monitoring on the continent, that the size of dish for Nicosia would be smaller than we had previously envisaged, which may affect our thinking in terms of location, what will be monitored, and what arrangement we need with CYTA. Thus I anticipate we will know more this summer, after the Ford study.

The "INTERNET" link would come after the installation of the satellite monitoring dish. Phase I of "INTERNET" (London, Panama, Washington) is now under contract and should be operational by October 1986. Nicosia could be added on after that date. "INTERNET" should pose absolutely no problem for CYTA; it would be handled in much the same way as a conventional communications system. We are, in fact, working with the local PTTs on "INTERNET" connections in England and Panama.

The Honorable Richard W. Boehm

We will indeed be sending you a background paper on these two systems that should assist in your informal discussions with the Foreign Ministry. But I prefer to wait until the Ford study and we know what is really involved in terms of sites and equipment for satellite monitoring. That could affect how you present the case. Then, once we know the sizing of the facility, you can approach the MFA at a time of your choosing and convenience.

If you have any questions or thoughts at this point please do not hesitate to write. We will keep you informed as we know more.

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Sincerely

DIRECTOR

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